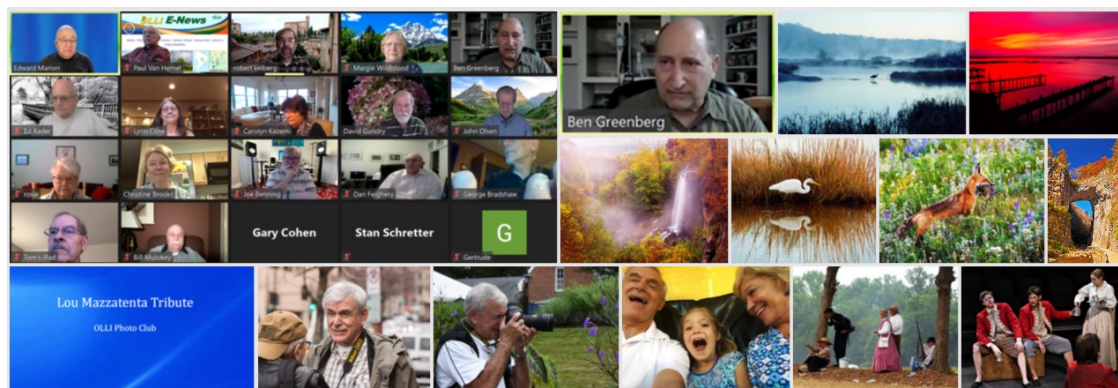


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Ben Greenberg Shares His Natural Virginia Photos with the Photography Club, January 8. The Club also Reviewed a Tribute to Lou Mazzatenta who Passed Away December 25; (see following story).

January 15, 2021

Editor of the Week: John Nash

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Alerts & Notices

- *Reminder:* OLLI Personal Computer User Group (OPCUG) meeting Saturday, January 16 (tomorrow), at 1:00. Zoom link and other meeting data on the [member portal](#) (at Zoom Class Links), or in the emailed OLLI daily schedule.
- *Reminder:* Coffee & Conversation for new and continuing members, January 29, 10:00. Register for Event 1101 on a first-come, first-served basis. Zoom link and other meeting data on the [member portal](#) (at Zoom Class Links), or in the emailed OLLI daily schedule.

- Winter-term registration continues on a space-available basis. The winter-term catalog is available online at [this link](#). Winter term begins January 25.
- Since winter catalog production, a few classes have been added, changed, or canceled. [Click here](#) for a full listing.
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, January 29; regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, January 26, at 6:00.

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Fun Facts for OLLI's 30-Year Anniversary



By Ray Beery, OLLI Member and Former President

In 2021, OLLI celebrates its 30th year of classes for seniors. This feature provides fun facts and interesting milestones about our institute each week that E-News is published throughout the year.

January 15

Long-range planning began early in the Institute's history when a committee was established for this purpose in September 1992. On December 16, 1993, the Board approved five standing committees (four operational and one administrative), changed part-time staffer Carol Ferrara's title from Coordinator to Administrator, and approved numerous management and implementation procedures recommended by an Ad Hoc Reorganization Committee.

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Thank You OLLI Volunteers





By Diane Stanley, Board Member

This year, OLLI perfected the art of the pivot as classes, committee meetings, and social activities moved online and our November volunteer appreciation event became a Zoom party.

The keynote speaker for this virtual Thanksgiving was Delegate Ken Plum, a longtime OLLI member and favorite lecturer who shared fascinating facts about early Thanksgivings in the Jamestown colony with First Nation Virginians.

But the main reason for the gathering was to recognize the contributions of our member-volunteers. Committee chairs joined the celebration—Toni Acton, Membership; Beth Lambert, Program; Kathie West, OLLI Players; and Angie Talaber, Development/30th Anniversary Planning Committee—to discuss their activities. All stressed how vital volunteer contributions are to the success of the OLLI organization.

Our excellent technical support team organized us into chat rooms to socialize, share experiences, and welcome the new members attending.

We ended with a toast to all volunteers for their generosity, hard work, and ingenuity. It's significant to note that rather than compress the class schedule or cut programs due to lockdown limitations, OLLI's usual can-do spirit came through and we maintained a full roster of classes, activities, and social meet-ups throughout the year.

As we approach our 4th term online, a round of applause for *all* who kept us going in 2020. We'll do it again in '21, celebrate our 30th anniversary, and look forward to being on campus again.

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OPC Remembers Lou



By John Nash, E-News Editor

At the monthly meeting on Friday, January 6, members of the OLLI Photo Club (OPC) paid tribute to one of its respected members, Lou Mazzatenta. Lou passed away on December 25 after a brief illness.

Lou was a member of the OPC for many years. He was generous in sharing his extraordinary photo knowledge and travel stories with club members and friends. He retired from the National Geographic Society after a career of more than 40 years.



Like many OLLI members, George Bradshaw considered Lou a friend. "Lou was helpful to me and many other OPC members in improving our own photographic capabilities. He was a teacher who was glad to share his knowledge about photography while his positive critiques helped many of us push our artistic boundaries."

OLLI members can appreciate Lou's photographic skills each time they see the three photos of irises hanging over the fireplace in TA-1. Lou's perfection seemed effortless.

The OPC has assembled a collection of photographs relating to Lou's work and time with us. According to Ed Marion, OPC co-coordinator, the galleries give a good representation of the wide range of Lou's interests and skills in crafting a story through his photography, as well as his good eye for composition. "Lou had a knack for revealing warmth and personality as well as what I'd judge 'perfection' in so many of his photographs."



John Olsen, OPC co-coordinator, noted special characteristics that defined Lou: Friend, Mentor, Story-teller, Inspiration, Humble, and Fun.

George Bradshaw has assembled a fitting tribute to Lou Mazzatenta with photographs, words, and music. To enjoy this tribute, visit the OPC Photographic Galleries or click [here](#).

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If You're Happy and You Know It . . .



By Doris Bloch, Program Committee Co-chair

No, please don't clap your hands (a phrase from an old children's song, for those who don't recognize the lyrics above). BUT if you enjoyed an OLLI class, please DO send an email to the instructor telling him or her how much you liked the class. Be specific, if you wish, about what struck you—the material offered, the visuals/video clips, instructor willingness to address questions, or whatever your good opinion is based on.



We have heard from our instructors that teaching on Zoom has one drawback relative to being in the classroom, i.e., the lack of feedback from participants. Certainly, if you liked a course, the instructor would be pleased to know, and it might just encourage the offering of another OLLI class in the future (ulterior motives are fine!).

Many of our teachers send out materials in advance of the sessions in e-messages and their email addresses can be found there, often as a cc. Or their email address might be on the handouts or the title page of their presentations. If you don't have an email address for an instructor, the OLLI office (olli.gmu.edu) will be happy to forward your message to the speaker.

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Art, Music . . . Can We Talk?



By Kosmo Tatalias, Art and Music Program Planning Group Co-Chair

The Art and Music Program Planning Group invites you to join us. We want to hear your ideas, experiences, and opinions—especially what you liked (or didn't like) about OLLI art or music classes in the past.

And how about the future? Do you or someone you know have a particular area of expertise to share with fellow OLLI members? Do you want to suggest new directions for our classes? Or do you just want to share some camaraderie with people who have similar interests? If so, please join the meeting on Tuesday, January 19.



Topic: Art and Music Program Planning Meeting

Time: 11:00 Eastern Time, January 19, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89282747099?pwd=K3dGczkzL0hIL2tRc2ZHVFh4M2gzZz09>

Meeting ID: 892 8274 7099

Passcode: 987654

To dial in: [301-715-8592](tel:301-715-8592)

If you would like to have a reminder the day before the meeting, please send your email address to: ktatali2@gmu.edu.

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Glenn Winters Has Been Busy!



By Marianne Metz, Art and Music Program Planning Group Co-chair

You may know Dr. Glenn Winters from his “Understanding Opera” classes at OLLI. For nearly two decades he offered us wide-ranging and lively analyses of operas that were to be performed each season by Virginia Opera. This year, of course, COVID-19 has cancelled traditional opera performances, with theaters dark all year. It follows that there are no traditional Virginia Opera productions to introduce in class.

But Dr. Winters has hardly been idle! He has composed a new opera, crafting both music and lyrics for *The Princess and the Pea*. Designed for children, this short comic opera is an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen’s 1835 fairy tale. But this version involves no stack of mattresses. Instead, it features *pea soup*—and an ecstatic ode to green vegetables.

In a Virginia Opera production that you can stream (free), Dr. Winters’ whimsical words are superbly sung by three young performers who clearly relished their comic roles. Don’t expect *Tosca*. But do expect a delightful half-hour of fun. If you—or your grandchildren—want to stream this *Princess and the Pea*, go to <https://www.facebook.com/VaOpera/>.

And if you *really* want to be educated, you can also download Virginia Opera’s 22-page [Study Guide](#).

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Reston Book Club Meeting



By Nancy Scheeler and Luci Martel, Reston Book Club Coordinators

The Reston Book Club will meet on Thursday, January 28, at 4:00 via Zoom. The book selection will be *The Pickup* by Nadine Gordimer.

The book concerns a chance meeting between a privileged white girl and a poor illegal immigrant in South Africa. The consequences of the meeting are unpredictable and intense, as each person's notions of the other are overturned. Set in the social mix of post-apartheid South Africa and an unnamed Arab country, the book opens the Arab world to unusually nuanced perceptions.

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Make the BUZZ Happen



By Rosemary Lubinski, Outreach Committee Chair

Did you know that, according to Nielsen, 92% of consumers believe suggestions from family and friends more than advertising? If you have had a positive, intellectually and socially stimulating experience with OLLI classes and programming, tell a friend. If you have enjoyed teaching a course, tell a friend. Do you know someone who might be a great teacher about an intriguing topic? Pass OLLI information on to this person. Can you post a positive review about OLLI on your social media accounts? It is primarily through you that others learn about the quality, number, and variety of interesting courses OLLI offers throughout the year. You can make the BUZZ happen.

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Photo of the Month



The January 2021 Photo of the Month theme was Open. We selected John Olsen's photo "Wedding With Bubbles", which may also be viewed at [this page](#). To view other photos by members of the Photography Club, visit the club's photo [website](#).

-- By Ed Marion, Photography Club Co-Coordinator

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

The Light Pours In

On sunny Sundays
light poured in
through large windows
lining the sides of the church
brightening its simple lofty interior
of wooden pews cushioned
in the same deep red
as the carpet and the curtains
on the raised choir at the front—
windows so large they gathered
light even on sunless days.

This white high-steepled church
sat on a spacious green lawn
just off the town square,
just as you might expect of a
New England Congregational church—
one whose bell cracked as it
told the death of Abraham Lincoln—
but giving hope, those windows,
that even in the darkest
of these days of 2020
fifty and more years later
light may still pour in.

— *Betty Smith*

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances, January 15 through February 1



By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

Virtual Performances

Although Mason's campus is shut down, online entertainment continues for us to access and enjoy. Dr. Linda Apple Monson produces a periodic "Notes from the Director." This email is full of interesting online performances by the students and faculty of the School of Music. If you would like to receive these bulletins, just send an email to Brianna Schoen at bschoen@gmu.edu. Also, the Center for the Arts has a website [Mason Arts at Home](#), which has a calendar of online events and access to many past performances. Information can also be found at [CFA ticket purchase page](#) or the [Hylton ticket purchase page](#).

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At the Fairfax Campus Venues

(No events scheduled.)

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Mason Student & Faculty Performances

(No events scheduled.)

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At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

(No events scheduled.)

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For information on any of the above venues, see the [CFA event calendar](#) and the [Hylton Center event calendar](#).

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**It's always the darkest
before the dawn!**

Meetings & Clubs

Please note: Physical meetings for clubs and activities are canceled until further notice in accordance with Mason's guidelines. OLLI is conducting its classes and activities online. Refer to the university's [coronavirus website](#) for official university updates and check the [OLLI calendar](#) for revised information.

The following list covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master

online calendar maintained by the office. The list is accurate as of mid-week but for the most up-to-date information, please view the latest forecast of coming events on our website (News/[OLLI Calendar](#)). *Note: All OLLI members are welcome at, and encouraged to attend, meetings of the Board of Directors, committees and resource groups, kick-off coffees, etc. (**bolded** below). The OLLI office has sent (or will send) emails with links and meeting passwords to club members; you may also log in at the [member portal](#) and click on ZOOM CLASS LINKS.*

Sat Jan 16	10:30 am 1:00 pm	Tai Chi Club Personal Computer User Group
Mon Jan 18	8:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	Gentle Yoga What's in the Daily News? Poetry Club
Tue Jan 19	9:30 am 4:30 pm	Annex Art Tai Chi Club
Wed Jan 20	10:00 am 10:30 am 2:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club Tom Crooker Investment Forum Memoir and More Writing Group
Thu Jan 21	10:00 am 11:50 am 4:30 pm	OLLI Players OLLIWOOD SQUARES All the News Tai Chi Club
Fri Jan 22	9:30 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon 2:00 pm	Craft & Conversation Homer, etc. Photography Club Theater Lovers' Group
Sat Jan 23	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club
Tue Jan 26	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club
Wed Jan 27	4:00 pm	Spanish Club
Thu Jan 28	4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Reston Book Club Tai Chi Club
Fri Jan 29	9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	Craft & Conversation Coffee & Conversation Classic Literature Club Homer, etc.

Sat Jan 30	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club
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About *OLLI E-News*

OLLI E-News was created by Rod Zumbro, who served as its editor from 2005 to 2013.

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: Paul Van Hemel

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Weekly Editor Team: David Gundry, John Nash, Sheri Siesseger, Leslie Vandivere,
Paul Van Hemel

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Marian Drohan, Jane Hassell

Backup Chief Editor: Alice Slayton Clark

Submissions: Members are encouraged to submit letters to the editor, letters to Ms. Ollie Ettakit (on etiquette matters), OLLI-related news items, articles, and photos. Submit material to: ollienewseditor@gmail.com.

Deadline: Tuesday, 6:00, for that week's issue (Monday, 6:00, for letters to the editor); early submissions are greatly appreciated. Please limit articles to about 250 words.

Search E-News: You can view past issues of *OLLI E-News* at [ENews Archives](#). To search the content within issues, use [Search](#) or enter your search term(s) in [Google](#) followed by "site:olli.gmu.edu/" without the quotes.

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Notice: You received this newsletter because either you are a current OLLI member or you have been provided a courtesy copy. If you are an OLLI member who did not renew your membership, you can continue to receive our newsletter by emailing the office at olli@gmu.edu with your request. If someone forwarded this newsletter to you and you'd like to receive it each week, please email the office and ask to be added to the courtesy-copy list.

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